

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4624
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
COMPUTER AND INTERNET FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS
Rana Shri Kashi Ram

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

- (a) whether the computer and the internet facilities have been provided in the rural areas of the country, especially in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the names of the schemes launched by the Government to provide computer and the internet facilities in the rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a), (b) and (c) : Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), under its 'Internet Dhaba' scheme provides Internet Access to franchisees of Internet Dhaba in rural Block Head Quarters in the country. As on March 2007, a total of 3722 Internet Dhabas have been set up through franchisees in various states of the country. In Gujarat 125 Internet Dhabas have been set up.

Statewise details of Internet Dhabas are in Annexure.

The government has issued licenses to Internet Service Providers for providing Internet Services in the country.

In addition a Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) has been established under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act with a primary objective to provide broadband connectivity to all villages in a phased manner.

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) has provided Computer and Internet through its various programmes:

National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established 555 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in 8 North Eastern States, 38 CICs in Andaman & Nicobar and 30 CICs in Lakshwadeep Island. 127 CICs have also been set up in Jammu & Kashmir.

Education Research Network (ERNet) Society under DIT is providing computer with Intranet and Internet to 140 Government and Government aided schools in 7 districts spread over 6 States.